

News Release

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Puget Sound Energy – Crystal Mountain Oil Spill Draft -Restoration Plan Available for Public Comment

Federal, State and Tribal officials responsible for restoring injured natural resources from a 2006 diesel fuel spill in Pierce County are announcing the release for public comment of the draft document entitled: Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the November 3, 2006 Puget Sound Energy Oil Spill. The Plan was prepared by a committee of State, Federal, and Tribal Trustees responsible for restoration of natural resources damaged by the spill, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Forest Service, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, the Puyallup Indian Tribe, and the Washington Departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife.

On November 3, 2006, a Puget Sound Energy (PSE) generator was overfilled causing a diesel fuel release that reached Silver Creek and associated wetlands within the White River Watershed, in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest below the Crystal Mountain Ski Area in Pierce County, Washington. Approximately 18,000 gallons of diesel fuel spilled onto the generator pad and ran downhill into a drainage ditch that flows to Silver Creek. Soils and groundwater within the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest were contaminated. Approximately 14 acres of wetlands and 5 to 6 miles of Silver Creek were oiled. Diesel fuel entering Silver Creek likely discharged into the White River.

In addition to documented habitat level natural resource injuries, direct and indirect injuries may have occurred to fish, including federally threatened bull trout and Chinook salmon, amphibians, and aquatic invertebrates. In the draft document, the Trustees describe restoration alternatives, including their preferred alternative which consists of restoration projects to address resources damaged by the spill.

The public is invited to review and comment on the proposed restoration plan for 30 days. Comments will be accepted until midnight, July 29, 2009.

The document is available on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Washington Fish and Wildlife Office website at <http://fws.gov/westwafwo>. Written comments concerning the draft Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment should be addressed to: Cindy Schexnider, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Office, 510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102, Lacey, Washington, 98503. You may also submit written comments by electronic mail to: WFWOoilspill@fws.gov